

## **Old Growth**

Old growth stands are defined as those that meet the minimum criteria as described in Green et al, 1992 (errata corrected 10/2008). If that document is revised or replaced by the Northern Region, the updated version will be used.

In general, old growth stands are in the late stages of stand development and are distinguished by old trees and related structural attributes. These old growth stands are typically distinguished from earlier developmental stages by combinations of characteristics such as tree age, tree size, number of large old trees per acre, and stand density (expressed as basal area). Specific values for these attributes vary by local ecological type and forest type. Other characteristics sometimes associated with old growth stands (canopy layers, snags, down wood, etc) are not part of the minimum criteria needed to meet the definition of an old growth stand because those other characteristics can vary greatly even in stands that are clearly old growth.

The old growth definitions are the USFS Northern Region definitions as documented in: Green, P.; Joy, J.; Sirucek, D.; Hann, W.; Zack, A.; Naumann, B. 1992 (errata corrected 10/2008). Old Growth Forest Types of the Northern Region.

## **Vegetation Response Unit (VRU)**

Units of land with vegetative communities that have broadly similar disturbance responses and successional pathways, and that produce similar landscape-scale vegetation patterns. VRUs are typically groups of habitat types aggregated by landform and topographic characteristics that regulate disturbance regimes and successional response. Historically lands within a given VRU were subject to broadly similar disturbance regimes.